
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.

INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

1858 & 1859.

FOURTEENTH REPORT

(FOURTH BIENNIAL)

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE KENTUCKY INSTITUTION

FOR THE

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND,

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF KENTUCKY,

FOR THE YEARS 1858 AND 1859.



FRANKFORT, KY.:
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1859.



REPORT.

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF KENTUCKY:

The Trustees of the Kentucky Institution for the Education of the Blind, are happy to be able to report that the interesting State Institution intrusted to their care, is, under the favor of a kind Providence, in a highly prosperous condition, and fulfilling, in the most satisfactory manner, to the extent of its means, the benevolent designs of its founders.

The Trustees of this State Institution, some of whom have been members of the Board ever since the Institution was founded by the Legislature of Kentucky, in the year 1842, have constantly watched over its interests with paternal care, from its first feeble beginning with five blind pupils, in a small rented house; and as they contemplate the blessings it has dispensed to the most afflicted and interesting class of the children of Kentucky, during the eighteen years of its existence, and as they witness the prosperity to which it has attained, they feel that they have been abundantly recompensed for all their arduous and gratuitous services in behalf of this great trust.

The Trustees of this State Institution feel it due alike to themselves, to the friends of the education of the blind, and to the best interests of that sacred cause, that they shall make some reference, at least, to the services of Mr. Bryce M. Patten, the Director of this Institution. His services have been thoroughly known to some of the members of this board from the commencement of the Institution, and for varying periods of time they have been known to all the Trustees. It is mainly due to his early and thorough recognition of the necessity and practicability of educating the blind, that the attention of the people of Kentucky was called to this important work. When the State authorities created this Institution, the first Board of Trustees sought the services of Mr. B. M. Patten for the directorship, and at a great pecuniary sacrifice on his part he accepted the post, and continued for years to discharge its high responsibilities, at a salary greatly below what he had readily commanded before he was called to this position. Throughout all his connection with the Institution, he has ever been equal to all the demands of his responsible trust, and has ever performed his duties to the entire satisfaction of the various

boards of trustees, who have managed this State endowment. To his fidelity, his thorough scholarship, his perfect mastery of the entire subject of the education of the blind, and an unwavering integrity that has constantly been alive, not only to the education of the blind, but to a faithful recognition of all that is due to the State authorities, in their connection with this philanthropic enterprise, the trustees cheerfully award a very large share of that success and prosperity which the Legislature of Kentucky has constantly acknowledged as the merits of the State Institution for the Blind.

The Director is aided in the management and instruction of the school by a matron and two teachers, who reside in the institution.

Mrs. Paris, the matron, has filled that responsible office for more than ten years. In addition to her duties as housekeeper, including the superintendence of the servants, she has the supervision of the clothing of the pupils, and the care of the pupils themselves, in all cases of illness. The duties of the matron are exceedingly onerous, and we would deem it our duty, if the means of the institution justified the expense, to employ an assistant matron, especially at times when the pupils are visited by sickness.

In the department of instruction we have secured the services of skillful and faithful teachers, who are earnestly devoted to the moral and intellectual improvement of the pupils.

Mrs. Haines, previously to her appointment as teacher in this institution, had experience and success as a teacher of seeing pupils; and entered upon her duties in this school with the promise of great usefulness, which has been fully verified. She has charge of the classes in Reading, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Rhetoric, English Composition, and History; and in all these branches she is a most excellent and acceptable teacher.

As the want of means prevents us from employing a regular teacher in the work department, Mrs. Haines, in addition to the other numerous duties of her office, kindly devotes two hours daily to the instruction of the female pupils in sewing, knitting, and fancy work; and their improvement in this department is highly gratifying to the pupils and their friends. Many of the pupils sew and knit very well, and manufacture a great variety of beautiful articles of silk, worsted, and beads; some of which will be exhibited to the members of the Legislature during the present session.

Miss M. I. Weld, a young lady, who, without previous experience as an instructor, but with fine talents and attainments as a scholar, was appointed teacher in this institution more than two years since, has, during her connection with the school, given proof of very superior qualifications as a teacher. Gifted with remarkable aptness to teach, endowed by nature with musical talents of a high order, and favored with superior educational advantages for the cultivation of her musical powers, with ardent devotion to the science of music, she has become an accomplished and successful teacher in this interesting and important department of the institution. When the declining health of the lamented Professor of Music in the School, compelled him, a year ago, to discontinue his daily visits to the institution, Miss Weld,

at the request of the Director, and with the sanction of the board of trustees, kindly consented to take charge of his pupils, and she has, with such aid as two of the female pupils could give, very successfully conducted the musical department of the school from that time to the present. In addition to her duties as teacher of vocal music and the piano, she has preferred to retain the classes in geography, of which she had charge before she assumed the entire charge of the musical department.

The teachers in this school have not only succeeded in advancing the pupils rapidly in their studies, but they have been uncommonly successful in winning the confidence and affection of the pupils. By unceasing kindness they unite with the other officers in making the institution a happy home to those pupils who enter it homeless, and in preventing the more favored ones, who come to it from pleasant homes, from sighing after the joys of the home circles they have left behind them. We regard the institution as peculiarly fortunate in having secured the services of teachers of such eminent fitness for the offices to which they have been elected.

Mr. John Horn, a gentleman of fine musical attainments and of great ability as a teacher, visits the institution twice every week, and gives instruction upon the violin and guitar, to several pupils, who are making improvement which is alike creditable to pupils and teacher.

At the close of the session in July last, Miss S. M. Weld, a young lady of untiring devotion to her pupils, and of great energy of character, who had for more than two years filled very acceptably the office of teacher in this school, offered her resignation, and accepted a situation in a female seminary in the interior of Kentucky. She bore with her to her new field of usefulness our best wishes for her success. The vacancy caused by her resignation has not been filled; and the care of her classes has devolved upon the other officers in addition to their other duties.

Miss Ellen Emmons, the oldest pupil and most advanced scholar in the institution, who has for several years rendered very important service as an assistant teacher in music, has, since the commencement of the present session, been prevented by serious illness from participating in any of the exercises of the school. She is a young lady of extraordinary talents and wonderful attainments in music; and the loss of her instructions and example is very seriously felt, and we earnestly hope that she may be permitted again to enter the school where her example has ever exerted so salutary an influence over all the pupils.

In the early part of the present year, we employed, at considerable expense, Mr. L. Colliere, one of the most distinguished teachers of vocal music in the United States, to give one lesson a week to the pupils in vocal music; and he continued to make weekly visits to the school for that purpose, until flattering offers from a distant State induced him to remove from Kentucky.

It is our melancholy duty here to record the loss of one who, for the last fifteen years, has had a connection with this institution, highly honorable to himself, to the institution, and to the afflicted class

to which he belonged. Mr. Joseph B. Smith, Professor of Music in this Institution, departed this life on the 6th day of May, in the present year. He resided with his family in Louisville, but visited the institution daily, devoting to the instruction of the blind three hours each day. Mr. Smith became totally and incurably blind in very early infancy. At the age of nine years he was placed in the institution for the blind in Boston, where he remained eight years. At the end of that period he entered Harvard University, and passing, with great credit to himself, through the regular collegiate course, he graduated in the year 1844; being the first totally blind man that ever graduated at any University in the United States. Immediately after his graduation he was elected professor of music in the Kentucky Institution for the Blind; and he filled that office, with great honor to himself, and with incalculable good to the school, until the time of his decease. He was a very remarkable—a very wonderful man. Endowed with an intellect uncommonly active and vigorous, a memory remarkably capacious and retentive, and an insatiable thirst for knowledge, he failed not to improve, in the best manner possible, the superior opportunities for intellectual culture with which he was favored from his tenderest years. He was ever a faithful student, an earnest thinker, and a patient and eager seeker for knowledge from early childhood to the close of his wonderful life. He was thus enabled, notwithstanding his blindness, to make large attainments in literature. He became well acquainted with the Latin and Greek languages; he was a proficient in mathematics; he understood well, and spoke fluently, the French and German, and he had an extensive acquaintance with the best English literature. He was, moreover, a beautiful and vigorous writer; and many of his productions in prose and poetry, will long live to adorn the literature of the blind. But in that interesting department to which he especially devoted his life, his talents and attainments were pre-eminent. While a boy he manifested extraordinary musical powers, and his subsequent life abundantly fulfilled the promise of his early years. In the knowledge of the theory of music, he rarely, if ever, in the maturity of his powers, met an equal—never a superior. Some of his musical compositions are worthy of a place beside those of the great masters from whom he drew inspiration, and in whose productions he found sources of unfailing delight. In ability, zeal, and faithfulness as a teacher in his favorite department, he was unsurpassed. The remarkable improvement of his pupils in this institution, their grateful appreciation of his instructions during his life, and their affectionate regard for him now, attest alike his ability and his devotion. But he had far higher and nobler aims than perfection in any mere science or art, however exalted. He was a philanthropist. One of the cherished aims of his life was to be a light to that afflicted class from whom the visible beauties of creation are ever veiled in impenetrable darkness. He well knew the formidable obstacles that ever beset the pathway of the blind. He knew, by observation and by bitter experience, with what distrust even the educated blind are too often regarded by their more favored fellows. He knew that honesty, industry and ability, are often to the blind no certain pass-

port to honorable and remunerative employment. He knew all these difficulties well, for they made the most trying part of his daily experience. But he was not disheartened. He felt that it was his mission to aid in enlightening public sentiment in regard to the blind, in removing the obstacles that lie in the way of their success, and in teaching them reliance upon themselves, and that Being whose especial care is ever over the afflicted. On leaving the university, pecuniary aid was proffered to him by kind friends; but gratefully declining their offers, he heroically determined, with the blessing of God, to make his own way through the world, and thus to animate the blind with the hope of self-support. He manfully girded himself up for this noble work, and pursued it with tireless perseverance and unfaltering energy to the close of his earthly career. To his lofty aim he was ever true, and he was crowned with success. His example will ever live to cheer and inspirit the blind. As he had lived the life, he died the death of the Christian. He was perfectly resigned to the will of God for time and eternity. His earthly remains were borne to Cave Hill cemetery, and a beautiful marble tablet, erected by his affectionate and grateful pupils, marks the place of his repose.

It will be perceived that fewer teachers are employed in this institution than in former years; and we regret to state that the limited means at the disposal of the trustees will probably prevent us from increasing the number for some time to come. The same rigid economy which we have been obliged to practice in all other departments of the institution has been extended to the important department of instruction. The want created by the diminution of the number of teachers has been supplied, in part, by the aid of some of the more advanced pupils, who ever render willing assistance in the instruction of the smaller classes; and, in part, by the extra labor that has been so generously and cheerfully assumed by the other teachers. The Director, moreover, being relieved from the constant supervision of the workmen, by the discontinuance of the building operations and other improvements, which have occupied so large a part of his time heretofore, has been able to devote more of his time to the instruction of the pupils, and the benefits resulting therefrom are very apparent in the improved condition of the school. In addition to the superintendence of all departments of the Institution, he has the entire charge of the classes in the Languages, Mathematics, and Astronomy.

The number of pupils connected with the institution in the year 1858, was 56; 21 males and 35 females. The number in the year 1859, has been 51; 16 males and 35 females. All the pupils, with one exception, are in the enjoyment of good health; and none have been removed by death since the last biennial report was presented to the General Assembly. The remarkable preservation of the lives and health of the pupils demands renewed expression of gratitude to that Providence that has so long watched over this institution from which only three pupils have been removed by death during the eighteen years of its existence.

The general deportment of the pupils connected with the institution at the present time is worthy of high commendation. They are indus-

trious and studious, and ever manifest a grateful appreciation of the privileges that have been secured for them by the wisdom and kindness of the Legislature of Kentucky. Their ready compliance with the rules of the school especially merit the approval of the trustees and other friends of the institution. They are, with few exceptions, remarkable for gentleness and docility. In no literary institution in the State do the pupils manifest more lively interest in study, or a more cheerful and willing compliance with the wishes of their teachers. If a stranger should enter the institution in time of study or recreation, he would not, by the ear alone, receive any intimation that the active, cheerful, sportive beings around him were destitute of that glorious gift of Heaven, vision, without which so many erroneously believe life must be altogether unjoyous and inactive. The same love of play, the same love of knowledge that prevail in schools for the seeing, are in full activity here. The halls of the institution, the play-grounds, the neighboring groves and hill-sides, resound with laughter no less joyous than that which is heard from other happy children and youth all over our favored land. The blind regard themselves as happy as those who are blessed with all the senses; and those who witness their cheerfulness are forced to the same conclusion. Our pupils are gathered from all parts of the State and from every condition in life, and there is, of course, in the school, a great diversity both of native intellect and of mental culture. While there are some pupils of the finest natural endowments, there are others of powers so exceedingly feeble as to be but a few removes from idiocy; and yet every pupil in the school is, in some regard, an interesting pupil, and deserves commendation for industry, and even for progress, in at least one direction. So truly is this the case that some of the feeblest intellects in the school have, by unceasing application, outstripped in some pursuit all their more highly endowed school-mates.

Rev. J. D. Matthews, D. D., in his last report to the Governor of this Commonwealth, makes the following report with regard to this institution:

"I visited this flourishing State institution in the month of February, and found it very much improved in its outward appearance, and in the accommodations it offers for this class of unfortunate youth.

"The improvement in the various departments of the institution, since its removal to its present location, is apparent, even to the most casual observer.

"The site, which was selected with great care by the State authorities, is, in all respects, admirably adapted to the purpose of the institution. The grounds are extensive and beautiful, and on the highest elevation in the vicinity of Louisville. They have been properly graded, and handsomely laid out by the Superintendent, and ornamented with hundreds of fruit and shade trees, which will, in a few years, add greatly to the beauty of the place, and to the comfort and health of the pupils.

"The edifice, the plan of which was made in accordance with legislative enactments, and approved by Gov. Powell, fulfills the highest anticipations of the officers of the institution, and reflects great credit

upon all concerned in securing the adoption of the plan, and the erection of the building. It is, in all its parts, remarkably well adapted to the purpose for which it was designed, and commands the approval and admiration of all competent persons who have examined it.

“Of the school itself I am able, after several visits, to speak in the most favorable terms. It is well organized, and judiciously managed in all its departments. The pupils are remarkably fortunate in having so able and kind and devoted a principal, and competent teachers, wholly absorbed in their improvement and happiness. These unfortunate but interesting children and youth, who are deprived of one of the most important inlets of knowledge and pleasure, here find happiness in the exercise of their faculties, in the acquisition of knowledge, and in preparing themselves to become useful and independent members of society. The bounty of the State is here well bestowed, and the grateful recipients will ere long repay to the public a hundred-fold all that they are now receiving.

“The trustees of the institution have been selected with the greatest care by the board of education, and I am perfectly satisfied that the interests of the institution could not have been intrusted to a more able and faithful board. They exercise at all times a paternal care over the institution; and to their faithful, arduous, and unrequited labors, the school is, under a kind Providence, greatly indebted for the high degree of prosperity which it now enjoys.

“I trust that the next Legislature will not only continue the provisions hitherto granted, but will enable the board to *purchase lots adjacent to the edifice*, for protection against annoying buildings and uncongenial neighbors. A few hundred dollars invested for this purpose, will, in coming years, not only enhance the value of their noble institution, but add vastly to the comfort and ends of the asylum.

“I feel so deeply interested in this *State Institution*, that I will venture to call the attention of all the commissioners and trustees and teachers, throughout our Commonwealth, to an extract from the circular of the auditor for 1857 :

““I again earnestly invite the attention of the commissioners to the duty of *ascertaining and reporting* the name, age, and post-office, of every blind child in their respective districts, as required by An act in relation to the blind children of Kentucky, approved January 9, 1852, which may be found on page seventeen of the auditor’s circular to the commissioners of tax for the year 1857. The State of Kentucky, having provided for the education of all the blind children within her limits, makes it the duty of the commissioners to ascertain and return the name, &c., of these unfortunate children, that they may be duly notified by the proper officers of the inestimable privileges offered to them in the school established for their benefit in Louisville. If the commissioners neglect this important duty—as I regret to say some of them have hitherto done—many unfortunate blind and purblind children will probably be forever deprived of the priceless advantages that are so freely offered to them through the liberality of the Legislature and the people of Kentucky.

“‘I would moreover particularly remind the commissioners that it is their duty to report not only the names of all children that are *totally blind*, but also of all those who, by defective vision, are prevented from pursuing their studies in the schools established for seeing persons. It is the duty of the commissioners to inquire of the head of every family whether there are in the family any *blind children* or any with *eye-sight so imperfect that they cannot see to read*, and to return the name, age, and post-office address of each.’”

In our last report to the General Assembly we invited attention to an enterprise, which had been commenced in the State of Mississippi, to print books in raised letters for the blind; and we recommended the incorporation of a board of trustees to manage the affairs of the institution. The institution was accordingly chartered under the name of the “*American Printing House for the Blind*,” and intrusted to the following board of trustees, viz: Hon. James Guthrie, Hon. W. F. Bullock, T. S. Bell, M. D., and Messrs. Bryce M. Patten, John Milton, H. T. Curd, and A. O. Brannin. The trustees met in accordance with the provisions of the charter, and organized the board by the election of officers; but as no funds have been transmitted from Mississippi or other States, no further action has been taken by the trustees of the Printing House, and they do not deem it necessary to make any formal report to the General Assembly at the present time. We are, however, gratified to state that agents are now employed to solicit subscriptions in Mississippi, Louisiana, and other States; that the sum of eight thousand dollars has been already collected for this important object, and that reliable subscriptions for a much larger amount have been obtained. It affords us still greater pleasure to state that the Legislature of Mississippi has appropriated two thousand dollars for the aforesaid object, and granted, for the same purpose, an annual allowance of ten dollars for every white blind person within the limits of that State. It is believed that in the course of the ensuing year sufficient funds will be obtained to enable the trustees to put the institution into actual operation, and that before the commencement of the next session of the General Assembly of Kentucky it will have commenced the work of printing books in raised letters for the blind. As the institution is located in Kentucky, as the blind of this State will be entitled to their full share of the books to be printed by it, and as other States have made liberal donations to establish and sustain it, we respectfully recommend that an appropriation be made to it by the Legislature of Kentucky.

The means of the Institution to meet the ordinary expenses in the years 1858 and 1859, have arisen from the following sources:

Allowance for State pupils, paid in 1858.....	\$6,638 35	
Annual appropriation in 1858.....	3,000 00	
		\$9,638 35
Allowance for State pupils, paid in 1859.....	\$ 5,939 65	
Annual appropriation in 1859.....	3,000 00	
Balance in treasury at date of last report.....	17 77	
		8,957 42
		<hr/> \$18,595 77
Amount carried forward.....		<hr/> \$18,595 77

Amount brought forward		\$18,595 77
The ordinary expenses of the Institution for the same two years have been as follows :		
Provisions, groceries, &c.	\$4,630 59	
Hay, straw, corn, and other feed	317 17	
Cows, &c.	211 00	
Horse, harness, saddle, repairs, &c.	222 85	
Carriage, &c.	321 00	
Dry goods, clothing, &c.	565 55	
Shoes for pupils and servants	110 90	
Furniture, table-ware, feathers, &c.	547 90	
Stoves, tin-ware, wire, burning fluid, &c.	333 14	
Venitian blinds	132 00	
Globe, maps, and books	432 36	
Two pianos and melodeon	808 60	
Salaries of teachers and officers	5,690 00	
Wages of agent	209 00	
Wages of gardener, seamstress, and servants	2,095 75	
Medical attendance	213 50	
Medicines, &c., in 1857, 1858, and 1859	134 05	
Insurance on building	441 00	
Postage in 1857, 1858, and 1859	35 00	
Fuel	909 58	
Rent of pasture and garden, 1858	150 00	
Traveling expenses of pupils and expenses of exhibition in Frankfort ..	94 00	
Conveyance of pupils to churches, funeral, &c.	208 00	
Lumber, carpenter work, painting, stone, making road, iron work, and repairing cistern	987 56	
		19,800 50
Balance due J. Milton, Treasurer		\$1,204 73

From the preceding statement it will be seen that the expenditures of the Institution for the last two years have apparently exceeded the receipts for the same time by the sum of *twelve hundred and four dollars and seventy-three cents*. This sum has been advanced by the Treasurer of the Institution, in anticipation of the quarterly allowance for State pupils, falling due December 31, 1859, and amounting to *fourteen hundred and seventy dollars*; so that, in reality, the expenses have, as in former years, been confined strictly within the means of the Institution. Portions of the foregoing expenditures, amounting to nearly one thousand dollars, and including the cost of carpenter work, and a stone and gravel avenue from the Institution to the Frankfort road in front thereof, do not strictly belong to the account of ordinary expenses; but they have been so charged, as the trustees were not authorized to charge them to the building account. In this, as in all matters pertaining to the Institution, the trustees and the director have endeavored to act in strict conformity to the acts of the Legislature respecting the benevolent institutions of the State.

We will allude, in this connection, with the highest satisfaction, to an important item of the ordinary expenses of this Institution, for which, so far as our information extends, no similar institution in the world is authorized by law to provide. In the year 1850, in accordance with the recommendation of Dr. T. S. Bell—a gentleman who gratuitously gave to the Institution his valuable services as physician, for several years, and whose unwearied devotion to the interests of the Institution as a trustee, during the eighteen years of its existence, is well known to the people of Kentucky, and most gratefully appreci-

ated by the pupils—the Legislature passed an act, alike honorable to the distinguished gentleman who suggested it, and to the State and the age in which we live, authorizing the officers of the institution to present to every graduate, in the name of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, a copy of the entire Bible, printed in raised letters for the blind. Although no special provision has ever been made by the State to meet the cost of these very expensive donations to the graduates, but, on the contrary, the amount required for this purpose is, in the language of the aforesaid act, “considered and accounted as an item of the ordinary expenses of the Institution,” we have ever regarded the act as one of the most benevolent and commendable ever enacted by any Legislature in behalf of the blind.

No duty of the director of the Institution is more cheerfully performed than that of placing in the hands of the blind graduates, as they go out into the dark world, the Holy Scriptures, to enlighten the cheerless pathway of their earthly pilgrimage. No act of the Legislature more beautifully illustrates the generosity of the people of Kentucky, nor more impressively shows that the representatives are the true exponents of an enlightened and liberal people.

The receipts and expenditures for building purposes have been as follows :

Special appropriation in 1858	\$7,500 00
Balance on hand as per last report	10 37
	<u>\$7,510 37</u>
 Paid T. Williams & Co., on account of steam-heating apparatus.....	 \$3,000 00
Paid on account of laundry and kitchen ranges, plumbing, &c.....	426 80
	<u>\$3,426 80</u>
Balance required to complete steam apparatus.....	2,000 00
Balance for fitting up laundry, bath-rooms, wash-rooms, water-closets, and tanks, to be paid on completion of work, according to contract.....	2,083 57
	<u>\$7,510 37</u>

The treasurer of the Institution will place in the hands of the State auditor his report and explicit vouchers for every dollar of the foregoing expenditures. In accordance with the by-laws of the Institution, not a single dollar has been paid out of the treasury without the approval of the board of trustees and the indorsement of the president. We are, therefore, enabled to speak with the greatest confidence as to the rigid economy practiced in all departments of the Institution.

Messrs. T. Williams & Co., in the year 1858, entered into a contract with this board to furnish the Institution with Gold's steam-warming apparatus, and they have executed a part of the work, including the boilers, furnaces, radiators in two stories, and pipes in three stories; but as the work is not yet satisfactorily completed, the trustees, in conformity with their invariable custom, will retain in the hands of the treasurer a part of the price until the apparatus shall be completed in accordance with the contract.

Messrs. Donally & Strader have contracted to fit up the bath-rooms, wash-rooms, laundry, and water-closets; and they have executed a part of the work in the most satisfactory manner, and we

have good reason to believe that they will, as soon as favorable weather will permit, fulfill their contract to the entire satisfaction of all parties.

It is the duty of the trustees in this report to invite the attention of the members of the General Assembly to the condition of the buildings of the Institution. The General Assembly passed an act, which was approved January 7, 1852, directing the Governor of the State to appoint a board of commissioners to select a suitable lot of ten acres of land, for the permanent location of the Institution, and to report to the Governor the site selected, and the terms on which it could be obtained, and also a plan of the buildings necessary for the accommodation of the school. Said act also required "that if the Governor shall approve of the selection of the ground and the plan of the buildings, he shall order and direct the purchase of the ground and the erection of the buildings." In accordance with this liberal act, a very desirable and beautiful site, in the most healthy part of Jefferson county, was selected with great care by the commissioners, and recommended to Governor Powell, who, after a careful examination of the site in person, gave it his unqualified approval, and directed its purchase by the trustees of the Institution, in the name of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The commissioners also presented well-matured plans of a building to the Governor, who carefully examined and approved the same, and ordered the building to be erected, in accordance with said plans, on the aforesaid site. The building is in all its parts most admirably adapted to the wants of the school, and commands the approval of all competent persons who have examined it. The correspondence between the board of commissioners and Governor Powell, and a description of the building approved by them, may be found in the House and Senate journals of 1853-4, pages 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31. An examination of that correspondence will show that the Institution was located and the building erected in strict conformity with legislative enactment. An examination of all the laws pertaining to this Institution will show that this is strictly a State school. It was called into existence by the Legislature of Kentucky; its trustees are appointed by the State authorities; its grounds, buildings, furniture, books, apparatus, and every thing belonging to it, are the property of the State; it is, in the language of the act which created it, "in all things and at all times subject to the control of the Legislature;" and it necessarily depends solely upon the Legislature for support.

The money appropriated by the Legislature to enable the trustees to purchase the land and erect the building, which had been approved by the Governor and commissioners, has been expended as directed by the General Assembly, and, we confidently believe, in the most judicious and economical manner; and the accommodations afforded by the new edifice are far superior to any the school ever enjoyed, before its removal to the present location. But important parts of the building remain unfinished, and we deem it our duty to recommend an appropriation sufficient to complete the building according to the original plan. The parts of the edifice now unfinished include the sleeping-rooms of the teachers and pupils, the infirmaries for the sick, and the

exhibition hall or chapel. In cold weather it is impossible to make the sleeping rooms comfortable in the present unfinished and open condition of the upper stories of the building. The erection of the portico and window blinds will add very greatly to the comfort of the inmates of the Institution during the summer.

We would also invite the special attention of the General Assembly to the importance of erecting and furnishing a suitable work-shop for the male pupils. In the earlier years of the Institution we were able to rent a shop on favorable terms, and the male pupils were instructed in several mechanic arts; and some of these pupils are now gaining an honorable and independent livelihood by means of the mechanical skill acquired in the Institution. During the last two years we have not been able to rent a suitable shop in the vicinity of the Institution, and not having the means to erect one, we were under the necessity of discontinuing operations in the mechanical department, which is to many of the male pupils the most important department of the Institution. We are confident that we cannot fully discharge our duty to the blind of the State without offering to them an opportunity to acquire some mechanical trade. In our opinion, as to the great importance of a mechanical department for the blind, all the managers of institutions for the blind everywhere perfectly agree.

An organ has been very greatly needed in this Institution since the year 1851, when a small but valuable organ, which had been purchased by direction of the General Assembly, was consumed by fire. Since that time we have had neither the means nor the authority to procure another to supply the place of the one that was destroyed. By placing a good organ in the Institution, we may qualify many of the pupils to become organists in churches, and thereby enable them, with little trouble or labor, to secure a salary of several hundred dollars a year.

To complete the building according to the original plan, to erect a work-shop, to inclose the grounds of the Institution with a substantial fence, and to procure a suitable organ, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars will be required, according to the estimates of Mr. G. Shryock, an experienced architect, and of Mr. Patten, the director of the institution; and the trustees very respectfully solicit the appropriation of that sum for the purposes herein specified.

The grateful acknowledgments of the trustees and members of the school are again tendered to the proprietors of the Kentucky Yeoman, Louisville Journal, Louisville Courier, Louisville Democrat, Presbyterian Herald, and Christian Union, and to Mrs. J. Rhoads, Mrs. J. F. Speed, Mrs. Breckinridge, Mrs. J. A. Miller, R. G. Moorman, Esq., Rev. J. D. Matthews, D. D., and the ladies of the Christian Church, under the pastoral care of Rev. D. P. Henderson, for their highly valued favors.

The catalogue of the officers and pupils of the institution, and several specimens of literary compositions by the pupils, are appended to this report. The compositions are inserted as they came from the pupils, without any corrections or alterations.

The director of the Institution will visit the capital of the State, during the present session of the Legislature, with several of his pupils, and give an exhibition of their attainments before the members of the General Assembly.

The trustees have noticed, with great pleasure, that a committee has been appointed by the General Assembly to visit and examine this Institution during the present session of the Legislature. It is the earnest desire of the managers of the Institution that the members of the General Assembly will examine the school and thoroughly inspect the edifice, and form their own judgment as to the character of the work, the present condition of the building, and the amount required to finish it according to the original plan.

We close this report with an extract from a notice of "The Kentucky Institution for the Blind," written several years since by the philanthropic Miss D. L. Dix, so eminently distinguished throughout the United States and Europe, by her successful exertions in behalf of the unfortunate :

"The proficiency of the pupils is no less surprising than it is gratifying. They are thoroughly instructed, and are remarkably fortunate in having competent teachers wholly devoted to their happiness and improvement. I have rarely visited any institution for children and young persons, under State patronage, so thoroughly well organized, and so judiciously managed throughout, as is this. Go when you will, at morning, noon, or evening, in storm or sunshine, expected or unlooked for, you will find that here's

"A place for all things, all things in their place ;"

and so, too, each hour marked by appropriate study, refreshment, labor, exercise, and rest. It is not possible to visit this institution even but once, (my visits have been renewed and repeated,) and not perceive that all is fair, open and true, in the domestic circle and in the school. There is no need to prepare for visitors, because, as in all rightly regulated establishments, *order, method, and good government* so prevail, that you cannot find them at any time amiss. Careful attention is paid to the personal habits of the pupils. Cleanliness and neatness are obligatory. While the high-principled and discreet superintendent of this school exacts the most correct habits in the pupils, the same are required of all the inmates ; and while the mental capacities are trained and educated, it is never forgotten that the moral nature is to be enlightened and directed, and the manners and conversation made to harmonize. A good example enforces good counsels. Firmness, kindness, and fidelity characterize the teachers ; obedience, good will, and industry, with but few occasional exceptions, distinguish the pupils.

"Here, these children and young persons from whom the natural sun is veiled, who are, through privation of vision, prevented from joining in the general bustle and cares and amusements of life—here they find happiness in the acquisition of knowledge, in the various exercise of their faculties, and in learning how, in time to come, they may best benefit their friends, and become useful members of society. The bounty of the State is here well bestowed ; these blind, but intelligent children, will repay to the public an hundred-fold all they are now

receiving. Thoroughly educated, and trained to virtuous and industrious habits, they will not return to their own homes, without extending good influences in their own families and communities. They are taught that it is a duty they owe the State to be assiduous in study, and correct in habits. No harsh impositions or severe restraints enforce the one or secure the other.

"It may be thought by some readers that possibly a too favorable estimate is placed upon the Louisville institution by the writer. She can only say it is open to all, and of easy access; let the public and individuals judge for themselves. More might very justly have been added in commendation, but it is uncalled for; without ostentation it reveals and sustains a fair and beautiful character. I have, on my various and distant journeys, heard this school referred to by those whose children have enjoyed its benefits, and oftener by persons who have casually visited it, and on no single occasion have I heard it named in any but terms of confidence and interest. The attachment of the pupils of the institution to their companions and teachers, is a guarantee that 'all is well there' in the domestic and social relations."

The Kentucky Institution for the Blind, under the fostering care of the enlightened Legislature and generous people of Kentucky, has advanced to a much more elevated position than that which it occupied at the time the favorable notice above was written by Miss Dix; and with the aid of the appropriation solicited from the Legislature at the present time, we hope soon to make it, in all respects, equal to the oldest and most prosperous institutions for the blind in the world.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM F. BULLOCK,
THEODORE S. BELL,
BLAND BALLARD,
WILLIAM S. BODLEY,
ROBT J. BRECKINRIDGE,
WILLIAM GARNETT,
JOHN MILTON,

Trustees.

KENTUCKY INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND,
December 15, 1859.

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

BRYCE M. PATTEN, A. M.,

DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL TEACHER.

MRS. ELIZABETH F. HAINES,

TEACHER.

MISS MARY J. WELD,

TEACHER OF MUSIC.

MISS ELLEN EMMONS,

ASSISTANT TEACHER OF MUSIC.

JOHN HORN,

TEACHER OF GUITAR AND VIOLIN.

MISS MARY H. PARIS,

MATRON.

ROBERT C. HEWETT, M. D.,

PHYSICIAN.



CATALOGUE OF PUPILS

FOR THE YEAR 1858.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.
Eliza L. Allen, - - - - -	Larue county.
Martha J. Arnold, - - - - -	Franklin county.
Susan M. Barnard, - - - - -	Nelson county.
Jacob Bogard, - - - - -	Nelson county.
Ella Bransom, - - - - -	Frankfort.
Mary J. Buckner, - - - - -	Louisville.
James L. Canavan, - - - - -	Franklin county.
Angelina Clark, - - - - -	Edmonson county.
Elizabeth J. Clay, - - - - -	Johnson county.
Martha Clay, - - - - -	Johnson county.
William H. Clay, - - - - -	Johnson county.
Mary Cline, - - - - -	Louisville.
Martha A. Coker, - - - - -	Calloway county.
Mary Costello, - - - - -	Louisville.
Josephine Dailey, - - - - -	Fayette county.
Elizabeth Dale, - - - - -	Russellville.
Rachel M. Davis, - - - - -	Taylorsville.
Eliza Davis - - - - -	Nelson county.
William Day, - - - - -	Rowan county.
Michael Dorr, - - - - -	Covington.
Marie D'Owville - - - - -	Louisville.
Frances A. Dupuy, - - - - -	Henry county.
Lucinda Durning, - - - - -	Louisville.
Ellen Emmons, - - - - -	Jefferson county.
Cynthia A. Green, - - - - -	Franklin county.
Elizabeth Green, - - - - -	Franklin county.
Catherine M. Hardin, - - - - -	Daviess county.
John Hardin, - - - - -	Daviess county.
Thomas M. Hazlep, - - - - -	Edmonson county.
Elizabeth Henning, - - - - -	Louisville.
Daniel E. Hoskins - - - - -	Estill county.
Nancy Hoskins, - - - - -	Estill county.
Henry L. Kidd, - - - - -	Lexington.
Reuben McClanahan, - - - - -	Logan county.
Clara Mattingly - - - - -	Louisville.
Joseph P. Mitchell, - - - - -	Owensboro.
Frances Moorman, - - - - -	Owensboro.

Philip T. Patterson,	-	-	-	-	Grayson county.
Simeon Peyton,	-	-	-	-	Lincoln county.
John Porter,	-	-	-	-	Jefferson county.
Georgiana Porter,	-	-	-	-	Jefferson county.
Virginia Porter,	-	-	-	-	Jefferson county.
Nancy Prewitt,	-	-	-	-	Russell county.
George Robertson,	-	-	-	-	Barren county.
Tapley Robertson,	-	-	-	-	Barren county.
Rebecca Rogers,	-	-	-	-	Fayette county.
Mary J. Sadler,	-	-	-	-	Jefferson county.
Catherine Salmon,	-	-	-	-	Jefferson county.
Robert M. Short,	-	-	-	-	McLean county.
Thomas M. Swift,	-	-	-	-	Newport.
Martha Swope,	-	-	-	-	Lagrange.
John Summers,	-	-	-	-	Elizabethtown
Henry B. Townsend,	-	-	-	-	Trimble county.
Richard S. Vaughan,	-	-	-	-	Bullitt county.
Susan A. Ward,	-	-	-	-	Washington county.
Adeline Wildes,	-	-	-	-	Louisville.

CATALOGUE OF PUPILS

FOR THE YEAR 1859.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.
Eliza L. Allen, - - - - -	Larue county.
Martha J. Arnold, - - - - -	Franklin county.
Jacob Bogard, - - - - -	Hardin county.
Mary J. Buckner, - - - - -	Louisville.
James L. Canavan, - - - - -	Franklin county.
Angelina Clark, - - - - -	Edmonson county.
Elizabeth Clay, - - - - -	Johnson county.
Martha Clay, - - - - -	Johnson county.
William H. Clay, - - - - -	Johnson county.
Mary Cline - - - - -	Louisville.
Martha A. Coker, - - - - -	Calloway county.
Mary Costello, - - - - -	Jefferson county.
Eliza Davis, - - - - -	Nelson county.
William Day, - - - - -	Rowan county.
Michael Dorr, - - - - -	Covington.
Marie D'Owville, - - - - -	Louisville.
Frances A. Dupuy, - - - - -	Henry county.
Lucinda Durning, - - - - -	Louisville.
Ellen Emmons, - - - - -	Jefferson county.
Cynthia A. Green, - - - - -	Franklin county.
Elizabeth Green, - - - - -	Franklin county.
Catherine M. Hardin, - - - - -	Daviess county.
John Hardin, - - - - -	Daviess county.
Timothy Hartill, - - - - -	Louisville.
Elizabeth Henning, - - - - -	Louisville.
Daniel E. Hoskins, - - - - -	Estill county.
Nancy Hoskins, - - - - -	Estill county.
Thomas M. Hazlep, - - - - -	Edmonson county.
Henry L. Kidd, - - - - -	Lexington.
Reuben McClanahan, - - - - -	Logan county.
Clara Mattingly, - - - - -	Louisville.
Edward E. Martin, - - - - -	Boone county.
Mary Miller, - - - - -	Louisville.
Joseph P. Mitchell, - - - - -	Owensboro.
Frances Moorman, - - - - -	Owensboro.
Simeon Peyton, - - - - -	Lincoln county.
Georgiana Porter, - - - - -	Jefferson county.

John Porter,	-	-	-	-	-	Jefferson county.
Virginia Porter,	-	-	-	-	-	Jefferson county.
Nancy Prewitt,	-	-	-	-	-	Russell county.
Julia Purnell,	-	-	-	-	-	Maysville
Rebecca Rogers,	-	-	-	-	-	Fayette county.
Mary J. Sadler,	-	-	-	-	-	Jefferson county.
Martha Swope,	-	-	-	-	-	Lagrange.
John Summers,	-	-	-	-	-	Elizabethtown.
Susan Ward,	-	-	-	-	-	Washington county.
Adeline Wildes,	-	-	-	-	-	Louisville.
Anastatia Stafford,	-	-	-	-	-	Jefferson county.
Mary E. Stafford,	-	-	-	-	-	Jefferson county.

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

TO THE FRIENDS OF THE BLIND IN KENTUCKY :

The Kentucky Institution for the Blind has been in successful operation, under the superintendence of the undersigned, for nearly sixteen years. It is under the management of a Board of Visitors, consisting of several of the most enlightened and benevolent citizens of the State, some of whom have been members of the Board ever since the origin of the Institution in the year 1842.

The Institution was established by the Legislature for the instruction of those children who are blind, and for those whose sight is so imperfect that they cannot see to read. All such children, of suitable age and of good moral character, are received and educated at the expense of the Institution, which is a State school, equally free to the rich and the poor.

The pupils are instructed in vocal and instrumental music, and in the branches usually taught in public schools and academies for seeing pupils. The boys are also taught mechanical trades, to enable them to support themselves independently after leaving the Institution.

The pupils, generally, are very happy and industrious, and many of them make wonderful advancement in their studies, and qualify themselves to be teachers of music, mathematics, and other branches of learning.

The Legislature provides for the board and tuition of the children of Kentucky. Pupils from other States pay one hundred and forty dollars a year.

The annual school session commences on the 20th day of September, and terminates on the 15th day of July. It is very desirable that pupils should enter at the commencement of the session, but *new* pupils will be received at any time during the session.

Persons desiring to send children to this school, will please to send the name, age, and post-office address of the applicant to the undersigned, who will, at all times, cheerfully communicate any necessary information pertaining to the Institution.

B. M. PATTEN, *Director*.

THE CLOCK OF TIME.

BY MARY J. BUCKNER.

“Now is the constant syllable ticking from the clock of Time.”

I stood within the spacious halls,
 Where many thousands stood, and stand—
 I stood and gazed upon its walls,
 Where hangs the clock with ready hand,
 Pointing the way to all who pass :
 Telling the time in one short word,
 To man or woman, lad or lass—
 By all the clock of Time is heard,
 Slowly, slowly, sadly ticking,
 Now, now, yesterday is past!
 Now, now, it still keeps ticking,
 And this, perhaps, will be the last!

Now come the groups of children fair,
 With rosy cheek and laughing eye;
 They listen, wonder at it there,
 But, heeding not, pass slowly by,
 Pausing to gaze and catch the sound;
 Then, lest the day will soon be gone,
 They, with a merry shout and bound,
 Still onward rush—the clock ticks on,
 Slowly, slowly, sadly ticking,
 Now, now, yesterday is past!
 Now, now, it still keeps ticking,
 And this, perhaps, will be the last!

Now come the maidens, O, how gay!
 Danc'ing and singing their songs of glee:
 We need not mind the time, they say,
 We need not listen, need not see;
 The clock will never cease to rest
 Upon these walls with ready hand,
 Pointing the way to each new guest.
 When years have past, then we will stand
 List'ning to its constant ticking;

And O how bright each golden link
Of Memory's chain to us will be!

When here we stand, we can but think
Of brighter days when we were free,

Within these halls where oft we've stood.
Amid the gayest of the gay—

The old, the young, the loved and good;
And then the clock to us will say,

Now, now, yesterday is past!

Now, now, 'twill still be ticking

Until it ticks for us the last!

Now come the noble youths, and brave,

Proudly marching through these halls;

Not once they heed the clock so grave,

As here it hangs upon the walls;

They dream of honor and of fame,

They have no thought of time that's gone:

To win a great and glorious name,

Their watch-word is, "Forever on!"

Yet slowly, slowly, sadly ticking.

Now, now, yesterday is past!

Now, now, it still keeps ticking,

And this, perhaps, will be the last!

Old age comes by with tottering feet,

With hoary locks, and care-worn brow.

And as he hears the solemn beat,

He pauses, gazes, listens now;

Before the clock he mournful stands,

And thinks how oft, in days gone by,

He heeded not those warning hands,

Now pointing to Eternity!

He, living in his memories now,

Its crowding thoughts within his brain.

And slowly o'er his wrinkled brow

Passes his hand again, again.

Then slowly to the youths he turns,

Beck'ning with feeble, trembling hand.

And each from him a lesson learns,

"Write not your lives upon the sand!"

And still they hear that slow, sad ticking.

Now, now, yesterday is past!

Now, now, it still keeps ticking,

And this, perhaps, will be the last!

Oh! as we stand within these halls,

Where many thousands stood and stand:

When Death each one to slumber calls.

May we be heeding that true hand;

And when within the grave we lie,
 And others stand within these halls,
 May they not pass unheeding by,
 But may they listen as it calls,
 Listen while it still keeps ticking,
 Slowly, slowly, sadly ticking,
 Now, now, yesterday is past!
 Now, now, it still keeps ticking,
 And this, perhaps, will be the last!

KENTUCKY INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, December, 1859.

THE LOST BROTHER.

BY ELLEN EMMONS.

Moonlight dances o'er the waters
 Of the calm and slumbering sea,
 On whose shore a lovely maiden
 Stands and watches wearily.
 Gently play the evening breezes
 With her flowing wavy hair,
 Gorgeous flowers of sweetest fragrance
 Deck her brow so white and fair.
 Why so anxiously and lonely
 Waits that maiden on the shore?
 She is watching, watching, watching
 For the barque she'll see no more!

'Tis the barque her noble brother
 Launched upon the stormy sea,
 And of all its gallant sailors
 There was none so brave as he.
 Golden dreams of fame and fortune
 Charmed him from his quiet home,
 From his young devoted sister,
 On the raging sea to roam.
 Now so anxiously and lonely
 Waits that maiden on the shore—
 She is watching, watching, watching
 For the barque she'll see no more!

Must that brave and youthful brother
 Never see his home again?
 Must that fair and gentle sister
 Wait for his return in vain?
 Yes, in vain ; for he reposes
 Far below the rolling surge,
 While the wave in plaintive music
 Nightly sings his mournful dirge!
 Still, so anxiously and lonely,
 Waits that sister on the shore—
 She is watching, watching, watching
 For the barque she'll see no more!

INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, January, 1859.

THE CHILD'S DREAM.

I dreamed of Heaven, that bright abode,
 Which darkness never veils ;
 Where joy and gladness never cease,
 And sin no more prevails :—
 Where angels with their golden harps
 Praise Him who reigns on high,
 Whose love for us will never cease,
 Whose power can never die !

I dreamed that round the throne of God
 There flowed a crystal stream,
 O'er whose calm waters came no storm,
 Nor fading sunset gleam.
 And from this clear and flowing stream
 Legions of angels drank ;
 And then they stood with one accord,
 And praised upon its bank.

I watched, and heard at God's command
 The holy angels sing,
 All glory, honor be to Him
 Who reigns, our Heavenly King !
 To Him who sits upon the throne,
 Who reigns o'er all the earth,
 Who gives new light to every soul,
 And blesses from our birth.

The stream made music as it flowed
Around our Maker's throne,
While with it blended angel songs
E'en sweeter than its own.
And while I list these angel songs,
And watch the flowing stream,
I wake within my little couch,
And find it but a dream !

INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, May, 1859.

